

What is claimed is:

1. In a system having application program interface, a method of identifying freeze methods appropriate for a storage object, the method comprising:
  - 5 transmitting data to the application programming interface identifying the storage object; and
  - receiving, from the application programming interface, a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein each freeze method includes a measure of quiesce strength.
3. A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on a computer, implements the method of claim 1.
- 15 4. In a system having application program interface, a method of freezing a storage object, comprising:
  - transmitting data to the application programming interface identifying the storage object;
  - 20 receiving a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object from the application programming interface;
  - selecting one of the freeze methods; and
  - issuing a command to the application programming interface to execute the freeze method.
- 25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein each freeze method includes a measure of quiesce strength and wherein selecting is a function of quiesce strength.
6. A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on a computer, implements the method of claim 4.
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7. An application program interface that operates with an application to generate frozen images of a storage object, the interface comprising:
- means for receiving data identifying a storage object;
  - 5 means for returning a freeze list with one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object;
  - means for receiving a selected freeze method associated with the storage object; and
  - means for returning a frozen image as a function of the selected freeze
  - 10 method.
8. The application program interface of claim 7, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage object and provides a list of preferences.
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9. An application program interface that operates with an application to generate frozen images of a storage object, the interface comprising:
- means for receiving data identifying a storage object; and
  - means for returning a frozen image of the storage object, wherein the means
  - 20 for returning a frozen image includes means for transmitting a freeze list having and for transmitting a frozen image representative of the storage object.
10. The application program interface of claim 9, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage
- 25 object and provides a list of preferences.
11. An application program interface for controlling formation of a frozen image of a storage object, the interface comprising:
- a storage object identifier, wherein the storage object identifier identifies the
  - 30 storage object;

a freeze list data structure, wherein the freeze list data structure stores data representing one or more freeze methods appropriate for freezing the storage object;

a freeze method identifier, wherein the freeze method identifier identifies a selected freeze method from the one or more freeze methods; and

5 a data structure for returning a frozen image corresponding to the selected freeze method.

12. The application program interface of claim 11, wherein the storage object identifier is transferred within a call to the application program interface.

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13. An application program interface for controlling quiescing of a storage object, the interface comprising:

a storage object identifier, wherein the storage object identifier identifies the storage object;

15 a quiesce data structure, wherein the quiesce data structure stores data representing one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object; and

a quiesce method identifier, wherein the quiesce method identifier identifies a selected quiesce method from the one or more quiesce methods.

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14. The application program interface of claim 13, wherein the application program interface transmits a signal on completion of storage object quiesce.

15. The application program interface of claim 13, wherein the storage object  
25 identifier is transferred within a call to the application program interface.

16. An application program interface for controlling quiescing of a storage object, the interface comprising:

means for receiving data identifying a storage object;

means for transmitting a quiesce list having one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object; and

means for returning an indication that the storage object is quiesced.

5 17. The application program interface of claim 16, wherein the means for receiving data identifying a storage object includes a call which identifies the storage object and provides a list of preferences.

10 18. In a system having application program interface, a method of identifying quiesce methods appropriate for a storage object, the method comprising:

transmitting data to the application programming interface identifying the storage object; and

receiving a quiesce list with one or more quiesce methods appropriate for quiescing the storage object from the application programming interface.

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19. The method of claim 18, wherein each quiesce method includes a measure of quiesce strength.

20 20. A computer-readable medium having program code which, when executed on a computer, implements the method of claim 18.